

## Midway Boosters Presidents and Projects

The City would like to express their thanks to the Midway Boosters Committee for all their contributions. It is impossible to put a price tag on the projects, time, and service rendered to the City by the Midway Boosters. Since their inception in 1947, they have been such an integral force for good in the community. Forty-seven men and three women have served as president of this all-volunteer organization. Some have served more than one-year terms as president. Following is a list of past Booster presidents: Reed Kohler, Francis Probst, Ray Huffaker, Leland Ivers, Myron Gale, Wendell Cluff, Scott Whitaker, Bert Blood, Vern Wilson, Robert Welch, Delbert Wallengren, Ferrin Whitaker, Ray Gertsch, Lincoln Pugh, Ralph Fugate, Arlo Fillmore, Earl Houtz, Bill Mair, Ivan Pope, Dennis Clegg, Lowell Johnson, Emer Wilson, Daniel Balstaedt, Ken Kohler, Larry Bonner, Gordan Shipley, John Eberhardt, Ralph Britsch, Andrew & Mable Mitchell, LeRoy Kohler, Alvah Kohler, Les Corbett, Jerry Klein, Richard Nielson, Connie Tatton, Steve Ridge, Rex Barrett, Roger Urry, Joe Probst, Mark Lundskog, John Oleson, Jack Zenger, Gary Lloyd, Joan Rasband, Dick Hines, Lyle Gertsch, Bill Pekny, Aldon Cook, and Mark Nelson. The City owes much to these great community leaders.

It takes many insightful leaders and willing citizens to build and maintain a beautiful City. This has been the hallmark of the Booster's Organization. Countless hours of volunteerism is what distinguishes Midway as a unique community. The projects and contributions are endless. Many who have moved into the valley may not know about completed Booster projects. Listed are just a few of their accomplishments over the decades:

### *Town Square*

- Planting grass and roses on Town Square and installing the sprinkling system, baseball bleachers, cement planters and planter boxes, gazebo, pavilion, and picnic tables, tennis court refurbishing

### *Town Hall*

- Town Hall acoustics, theatre lights and dimmer system, stage curtains, renovation (new ceiling lights, acoustical ceiling tile, window curtains, wainscoting on walls, valances and corbels, foyer, bathrooms, increased storage capacity under stage), new chairs and tables, refrigerated drinking fountain, choir risers, Olympic showcase, microphones, sign board, reconstruction project

### *Cemetery*

- Cattle guards, trees, six new flags and poles

### *Musicals*

- Swiss Days Musicals, "Midway to Heaven" and "Journey Home"

### *Donations*

- Memorial Hill Restoration, tree planting, "Final Salute," and arch, Heber Valley Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center, Preservation of Snake Creek Canyon, Centennial Park trees and bridge, Heber Valley Railroad, ice rink project, round-a-bout, bell tower

### *Streets*

- Helping extend 2nd North and 2nd West, street signs and house numbers, Swiss and American flags, helped oil Stringtown Road, "Welcome to Midway" signs, lighting and logo of Legacy Bridge, street banners, hanging flower baskets

### *Hand Bell Ringers*

- Purchased 4 Octaves, 61 Bells, (including individual donations), trailer

### *Services*

- Better phone service, Memorial Hill fireworks, T.V. relay system, Midway Elementary Weather Bug Station,

### *Swiss Days*

- Cookbooks, souvenirs, parade flags, Swiss Christmas, Swiss Days parade and Swiss Miss float

Individually, the projects might seem small; but collectively, Booster contributions have made a significant impact on our community.

## Midway's Town Hall Glockenspiel and Clock

The year was 1987 when the Midway Boosters met and discussed an exciting new project to adorn Midway's Town Hall. Their idea was to build and install a Bavarian-style glockenspiel and clock. The dictionary defines glockenspiel as "a musical instrument composed of a set of graduated steel bars mounted in a frame and struck with hammers." At the time, Richard Nielson was Booster's President and Fran Anderson was the project chairman. Their dream came to fruition in September after long hours of planning, volunteering, and hard work.

The glockenspiel incorporated all the tradition of the glockenspiels found around Switzerland. Resident artist and doll maker Erla Young, an art teacher at BYU, was commissioned to design, create, and paint five 36-inch figures that would rotate on small platforms around a 40-inch diameter turntable. Mrs. Young rummaged through bits and pieces of wood from woodworker Robie O'Driscoll's discarded pile. Mr. O'Driscoll's profession was to build ornate rails that held up beautiful stair banisters. With Mrs. Young imagination running wild, she rescued arms, legs, torsos, and heads for her figurines; and Mr. O'Driscoll fashioned the figures on a lathe in his shop in Wallsburg. Another artisan, Jack Angus, helped shape the figurines and put them together without screws, using only glue and dowels. With paint and brush in hand, and a creative eye for doll making, Mrs. Young painted and clothed the dolls with authentic looking Swiss costumes. The figures include a pair of dancers, a goat herd girl, a wood chopper, and a king with a bear.

The next hurdle was to find someone to build the platform that would move in and out with the figurines when the doors opened and shut on the hour and half hour. The idea was to have synchronized Swiss music play, the doors open, the figurines come out, and the 48-inch clock chime. Bard Roper was contacted at what was then the Utah Valley Community College, to see if he could build such a mechanism. At the time, he was head of the mechanical and welding department at the college. He and 16 students started machining the parts that they needed that couldn't be purchased. They succeeded, and when they were finished, it took a block and tackle connected to a car to hoist the 500-pound machine to the peak of the Town Hall roof.

Ruth Olsen painted the clock face and the design on the doors that opened when the figures came out. Les Corbett installed the electrical wiring. Finally on September 2, 1987, the beautiful Glockenspiel was dedicated. Recently, the glockenspiel has been renovated by Al Perschon and Fred Thomas with oversight by Joe Linford. Mechanical, electrical, and sound systems have all been replaced.

